

REMARKS

The above election along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Official Action dated September 8, 2003 (U.S. Patent Office Paper No. 0903), the period for response to which will expire on October 8, 2003.

Election / Restriction Requirement

The Examiner is respectfully requested to review the substance of claims 4 to 7 and to indicate the allowability of the claims.

Claims 4 to 7, drawn to a method for indexing a microarray chip, have been elected in this application, while remaining claims 1 to 4 are withdrawn from further prosecution at this point, without prejudice and disclaimer. Applicants hereby reserve the right to file a divisional application on the non-elected claims.

Applicant amended claim 7 to eliminate the multiple dependency of claim 7.

Substantive consideration of the elected claims is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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